

The saddest thing in life is to witness the discouragement of a woman who having accomplished her task of educating her children, finds herself solitary and neglected, the returns for her devotion being that she is overlooked while they are absorbed in ambition and their own business and their own relation.

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# THE BLUE GRASS BLADE

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JAMES E. HUGHES ..... Editor and Publisher

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Light is breaking.

All is not said or done.

Greet each new dawn with a smile.

Freedom has but one, universal meaning.

In Washington's deathless splendor gleams the glory of millions.

Christian souls are necessarily labeled as perishable property.

There's lots of work and little fun in trying to reform the world.

The man in the moon cares not whether we be Baptist, Methodist or Mormon.

It has been unanimously decided that preachers are an admirable nuisance and should be dispensed with.

Religious science is founded on fooleries and stuffed with infinite labor into the fat heads of its dupes.

Members of Congress arrived in Washington ahead of time to avoid paying railroad fare because of the anti-pass law.

Now that scientists are discussing the "disappearance of the blonde types in America" they might look out for a corner in the peroxide of hydrogen market.

Why call man the lord of creation? He is but the idle sport of Time and Space. His yesterday is forgotten and his tomorrow is altogether unknown.

According to the orthodox plan the Almighty is constantly looking for new jobs to afflict with penitential sores and foul friends. Why it is they do not know but he just simply does it, that's all.

Thoreau once said, "You have built a castle in the air! Then put a foundation under it." The sentiment is beautiful and admirably expressed. There is nothing to a man who cannot build an air castle and enjoy it.

It has been well said that in a multitude of counsel there is wisdom and with free discussion upon all subjects we can better guard against the encroachment of power and maintain the medium of liberty which our fathers bequeathed to us.

The French people have not only abolished the divine right of Kings, but they now deny the divine right of the church. When this notion gets firmly imbedded in the heart of American sovereigns we will no longer exempt the million dollar church from taxation and lay heavier tribute upon the laborer's cot.

If the Christian nations have a duty to perform in the matters of King Leopold and the people of the Congo, how are they to escape a like duty in regard to Emperor William and the Boers? The same with England and the Boers? This may be a mighty good time to apply the "square deal" as a standard of international action.

Congregations that can afford to build fine churches and export savings grace to the pagan peoples of foreign climes, can well afford to pay taxes and help the American heathen out of the hole. A million men out of employment pacing our streets in grim despair; a million children reared in ignorance and crime; a million women battling between want and social infamy, and the church still prates that we must give, give, as if the widow's mite is necessary to support a pauper deity.

The anti-mormon crusade is still on. This reminds us that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived in an age of general ignorance, yet while accepting the Hebrew patriarchs as God's anointed, the time-serving Christians have hounded and persecuted those who desire to mould their social life by these divine models. It may be true that they had more than one wife, held wrestling matches with angels and washed the feet of the feathered birds and we may presume that they had learned how many female bosses the average pilgrim on the heavenly turnpike might possess, yet it is difficult to imagine the Almighty allowing a sawed-off dude like Solomon to have a full thousand and compel such lucky animals as our modern preachers to come through, selves to but one. Truly, religion is a wonderful thing.

As the purest pearl is encased in an unseemly shrine so too is many a brave heart encased in a breast of seeming adamant. Many a man will swear because he is too proud to weep and still a quivering lip beneath the cynic's sneer. Human love and human sympathy are the sweetest words ever framed by terrestrial lips and did we practice them towards each other more this old world would become a paradise indeed. As it is the world is better today than our preachers would have us believe but they must keep it in bad odor or they would lose their jobs.

## WHERE THE SHOE PINCHES MOST.

Cardinal Gibbons, the official and recognized representative head of the Roman hierarchy in America, would have the American people correctly understand the present church crisis in France.

Of course, there is only one correct view, and that is the view taken by Cardinal Gibbons and it is his view that he would have the people of America assimilate and adopt as their own, by which and through which, they could be in a position to "correctly" understand the situation.

Fortunately for the American people, and fortunately for the French government, the American people have a peculiar habit of looking at things in their own way and from the signing of the Declaration of Independence they have refused to look at things the same way as those who are manifestly interested in one view only. So it will be in the present conflict between church and state in the French republic, our people will view it from their own standpoint and if it be the purpose of Cardinal Gibbons to so arouse the religious passions and prejudices of Americans that they can extend financial or physical aid to the adherents of the Vatican in France for the purpose of resisting the edicts of the government, then Gibbons will simply create a cataclysm at home which will engulf and swallow him.

In his diatribe against the French people Cardinal Gibbons unwittingly reveals the motive of the church party in resisting, as they can, the separation law. He says, I will leave life without the aid of a religion. I will leave life without the aid of a religion which has been my comfort and support and hope during a long career, if I believed that my countrymen (the American people) would knowingly see tens of thousands of honest men and noble women robbed of their just income and means of support and people brutally wounded by all that they hold dearest and most sacred.

Rather a fine play on words, my Dear Cardinal, they won't stand analysis. It is not only because of our American love of liberty, guaranteed as a constitutional right, that Gibbons has enjoyed the blessed privilege of plying his profession in America without let or hindrance, but it is the hundreds of thousands of American dollars that have been poured into his lap, that have constituted his "support" during a long career. This does not apply to Cardinal Gibbons alone, but to every preacher of any church or denomination whatsoever. The flow of spontaneous and the preacher, be Cardinal or of less degree, will seek another habitat where they find a more golden harvest. It is easy to love both Christ and country on a full stomach, but starving preachers are compelled to resort to divers devices for raising the wind. It is meet and right that Cardinal Gibbons should "love the American people" for they have been exceedingly kind to him. But to proceed.

The Cardinal very frankly states that the French separation act has deprived thousands of men and women, living on church work, of their means of support. Here is where the shoe pinches most. Church workers are non-producers. They are all large consumers. Producing nothing they must needs subsist upon what others produce and they always have a hand extended, with open palm, for a portion thereof. The Blade denies that any preacher, of any denomination, in receipt of a salary for simply preaching, is drawing a "just income." He is drawing an income, true, but it lacks the meaning and qualification suggested by the adjective, just. It is not just, but unjust. The preacher takes all and gives nothing in return because he has nothing he can give but a string of empty words and meaningless phrases. The Blade denies that in enforcing the separation act the government of France is "robbing" any man or woman no matter what their connection or position with the church might have been. The French government has simply prevented that class from longer robbing the people. While these men and women may have been deprived of an income, which, by right, they ought never to have had, they have not been deprived of the right or privilege of following some other and more useful employment which, in the end, will make them more useful and more desirable citizens.

Proceeding further, Cardinal Gibbons rails at the officials and the governmental leaders in France, saying:

"I am weighing my words, and I say with deliberate conviction that the leaders of the present French government are actuated by nothing less than hatred of religion. In France the Jacobin

party is not dead. Its spirit is as living today as it was in the last decade of the eighteenth century. Its members hate (did, they hate) Christ, they hate his religion as much as ever their fathers hated it. It is easy to show that I am not misrepresenting the French anti-clericals or their spirit. They make no secret of their hatred of Christianity."

When one considers the bloody pages of history that have been written by this very Christian religion, of which Cardinal Gibbons prates so securely, he must be commended as being a brave man for giving utterance to such expressions as quoted above. In viewing the situation it is evident that he keeps one eye closed. He protests against the present but endorses and approves the past. Was it not this very religion of Christ that brought into existence the Jacobin party and the French revolution and did not Robespierre, the representative of Christ in that awful period use the Jacobin party to put to death those who did not agree with him, keeping up the bloodshed until it drowned him? And suppose the French anti-clericals of today have no love for the religion of Christ, have its followers in this, or any other country, any love for the anti-clericals? Can their hatred of religion be any more severe than the hatred of religion for them? Has not this same religion always manifested a rancorous hatred for whatever opposes it. Ah, Gibbons, your plaint is tainted with hypocrisy. Your sorrow is caused from the fact that the anti-clericals in France now have the reins of government in their hands and that your church is down and out. Were the situation reversed you would soon show your hatred for the anti-clericals. That hatred would be demonstrated to-day just as it has been in the past. So far as France is concerned the religion of Christ is getting all that is coming to it and all that it justly deserves. France has suffered fearfully at its hands. Now France is determined that no more sorrow shall be laid on its doorstep for this reason that the Cardinal's shoe pinches. The Blade admires the French government in that it openly shows its hatred of the Christian religion, for the latter has never hesitated to manifest its hatred of those it could not coerce or bulldoze and history is now striking a balance.

There is one thing of which Cardinal Gibbons can rest assured, namely, that the American people, whether he continues to believe in their love of liberty and justice and humanity, or otherwise, will rise up and fight against the French people to aid the Christian religion whether it be through the Roman church or any other faction. The Cardinal can wear this bouquet on his red hat and call it settled.

## SECRETARY SHAW'S POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Every life saved is a national asset. Every thought stirred into activity is freedom's gain.

The former is the battle cry of the army of industrial freedom and the latter that of the great army of intellectual freedom.

Although striving for different results along different modes of work the two are almost identical, they are allies in the cause of human emancipation and must remain allies from the very nature of things until the ends sought have been accomplished.

Where men are thought bound they wear industrial fetters. Where industry is manacled with the chains of penance there can be no such thing as Free Thought. In all strictly orthodox communities, states, or nations, labor is at the lowest ebb, the poor being kept poor that the rich may grow richer. Intellectual liberty is handicapped where the people are kept in serfdom to ruling powers no matter their character or conformation.

These are self-evident truths. They need no demonstration. They prove themselves. Human history furnishes abundant examples and these facts are now being noted by thoughtful people all over the world and the soundings vigorously. The world over and the tens of thousands who suffer from the world's contumely. The man or woman who would save a human life by opening the doors to industrial freedom is denounced as an agitator, a demagogue, a dangerous person. Those who would do and propagate the teachings of Free Thought are made to suffer a social ostracism and in many cases a business boycott is instituted against them. Under such conditions it is strange that the laborer should organize for mutual help and mutual support the unequal struggle and is it not strange that the advocates of mental liberty do not and will not organize for similar motives? Just as labor learned the secret of organization from capital so do Free thinkers acquire an object lesson in the value of organization from the results the church have accomplished through it.

In face of all this, Shaw, of the United States Treasury, declares that we are too prosperous and suggests that if we would prosper we must curtail our prosperity. Prima facie this is illogical, but he declares, as if to prove his contention, "We are growing more crops than we can harvest and harvesting more crops than we can haul to market." This paradox comes from one who has occupied the most important and most prominent position in the Cabinet for years. We do not claim to be experts along the lines of industrial problems, nor do we boast a panacea for our industrial ills, but we do know that Shaw is absolutely and altogether wrong, say that his statement is actually idiotic.

Did it ever occur to Secretary Shaw that to solve the problems of transportation and distribution would mean the solution of the industrial problem? Did it ever occur to Mr. Shaw that the unequal distribution of crops and crop values, together with the confiscatory charges for transporting crops to market have created the very conditions of which he seems to complain? Did it ever occur to Mr. Shaw that with higher rates of transportation crops could be hauled to any market and sold at a profit instead of loss? Did it ever occur to Mr.

Shaw that the tariff on freight established by the railroad companies for transporting crops multiply their cost many times? Did it ever occur to him that there are enough idle men in the country to harvest all the crops twice every year if needs be? At the best the ideas of political economy contained in Mr. Shaw's figure of speech is exceedingly hazy. He uses strange logic for a man who claims to have saved the country from financial panic several times during his term of office.

That Mr. Shaw is wrong there is no doubt. There is a plenitude of idle labor. Of this there is no doubt. If there is any idle labor in the country the industrial error comes not from growing too much crops. Even if the crops be large railroad building in America has not become a lost art and the car shops can still turn out their products. The best answer to such political doctrines would appear to be to let make it profitable for men to live decently by their labor and having done this then to increase and cheapen transportation facilities.

Mr. Shaw would restrict production, which means to lessen the demand for labor. Sound political economy would increase consumption and there would not only be enough work for idle hands to do but an adequate compensation would accrue. The solution of the problem is simply that of transportation and labor. Give both greater freedom.

## COURAGE, NERVE AND TOLERATION.

Courage alone conquers.

It is not cheek, or gall, that enables man to pull through a tight place with success, but nerve force. The greatest and hardest worker, in his particular line, that the world ever produced, was Napoleon, and he suggested that the one great thing the world needed most was courage. Napoleon was right. Courage is needed and when called upon it should be ready. This is a truth that many workers in other fields have discovered for themselves and have applied it with more or less success. About the very best that a worker can have is nerve. It is an asset, however, that depends upon circumstances for it will carry a man through a crisis to success and again he might have succeeded just the same had he been without it. The worker who has the nerve force, the courage to go at it and stick, will always win where the weak and timid will be bound to fail.

One of the troubles with some men is that they confuse nerve with cheek. These prefer the brass band effects of the man who is always shouting about himself, who can elbow his way through crowds, and they have scarcely deigned to notice the quiet, self-contained advance that is made by the man with the real, iron nerve.

Above all never let it be said that you are a quitter. This class never get anything in this world. Any successful man can find times in his own experience when he was tempted to quit on this or that proposition, but he did not, stuck it with nerve and courage, and, finally, success came. There are plenty of men who make it a point never to quit. In life's war man tries to hit the mark. He tries to achieve what he has set out to achieve. In this case of the best idea he can have is nerve force. He lets nothing break or impair it. He will not submit to oppression for once his nerve is lost it will never come back with the same strength. Nerve is a thing of steady growth. It does not spring up in a moment like a fire-fly, gives a flash and is gone. It is there to stay if you will but encourage it. The main idea is to have something to do in life that will make life happier and better and then set out to get it.

Ah, friends, could we but instill these notions into the heart and brain of American Free thinkers how rapidly our cause would spread. In but a little while it would be more fashionable to be an unbeliever than it ever was to be known as an orthodox Christian. Principally, we are to blame. Many Free thinkers lack toleration. They have permitted the weeds of intolerance obtained in childhood to cumber the mind and while demanding freedom of thought for themselves deny the same right to others who have happened to reach just a little further than they. What they need is a nerve tonic and a courage cultivator. Wholesome thoughts will weed out the tares that have crept about the brain and the good seed will have a chance to grow. Then let us get more nerve, more courage, and these will make us more tolerant of the rights of others.

Once more, courage alone conquers.  
Be brave.

## PAINE MEMORIAL ISSUE.

The Blade is pleased to announce to its readers that the issue of Sunday, January 27, 1907, will be made a special Paine Memorial issue the better to perpetuate the memory of him who gave old glory to the skies.

Should any of our readers desire extra copies they should be ordered at once that we may print a sufficient number before the type is destroyed. We will send one copy to any address for five cents or six copies for twenty-five cents. This issue will do much to honor the memory of Paine and by a wide distribution will tend to correct so much that has been misstated in American history, or left out altogether for suspicious reasons. In order to justify our subscribers in sending for extra copies we give a brief synopsis of what the issue will contain.

There will be a picture of Paine, surrounded by copious extracts from his pen. The data to be furnished will be both historical and argumentative contributed by some of the best known writers on Free Thought in America. Among the contributors will be Thaddeus B. Wafarman, of New York; Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, of Versailles, Ky.; Dr. J. B. Wilson, Cincinnati; John F. Clarke, of Arlington, Md., and small contributions from several other good writers. In addition to these contributions the editorial pages will be devoted to the soldier-author of the American Revolution so that in its



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